

ROBY'S LACE TRACK AGAIN

Report That It Will Be Revived Under Control of the Gutenberg Gang.

Remarkable Results of the Detroit Meeting—Review of the Spring Races in the Indiana Circuit.

The story is published that the track at Roby, Ind., is about to change hands, and that the racing which had been given up there will be continued again this winter. It is asserted that the management of the winter track at Gutenberg will take hold of the project, and it is predicted that with such men as it is constituted of the track in the hands of this State will be made a success. The following is an extract from the Chicago Tribune of a recent date:

"Rumors to the effect that the Indiana Racing Association, property at Roby would be deeded to the Walbaum syndicate flew fast and furiously yesterday at Washington Park, but could not be authenticated, inasmuch as the man from Jersey with the powerful pull had flown after a sojourn of a week in Chicago, during which time he took occasion to dicker with the Roby people besides pinging for his meeting at Saratoga.

"Stockholders in the Indiana association declined to discuss the question of a deal yesterday, but no less authority than Judge J. J. Burke, the presiding judge of the Hudson County Jockey Club and a close friend of its president, Mr. Walbaum, admitted that the report concerning Roby was prevalent and could not be officially denied.

"With the Gutenberg syndicate at the helm, it is most certainly within the range of possibility that the hitherto profitable properties at Roby could be landed upon a paying basis. There was once a time when Gutenberg was a shade worse than even East St. Louis, but soon the mighty Dwyers, together with lesser lights of the horse world, smelted upon the hilltop track and with the crowds came the coin that makes Gutenberg preeminently one of the most successful racing institutions to-day, at least from a financial standpoint. In the Jersey track's directorate are the brains which could even defy the autocratic board of control and get away with the job at that.

"Walbaum thinks Roby is peculiarly adapted for winter racing. The soft and holding sand offers advantages to the weary-legged and sore-footed crabs which are seldom found elsewhere."

The "Blue Ribbon" meeting at Detroit last week was a great event in trotting and racing circles, and it was full of surprises. Not only was some phenomenal time made, but many long shots were the victors in the trials of speed. As for races going to horses in straight heats—that was not to be thought of any more. They have ranged from four to nine heats, and they have all been hot ones at that. Boone Wilson, the speedy, but rattle-brained, Indianapolis stallion, gave them all a hard race in the 2:21 pace on Wednesday, distancing Tip O'Tip in the fourth heat, the latter being a hot favorite to win the race. It took nine heats to decide the race, Drelincourt, a Hambrino stallion, proving to be the final winner.

The free-for-all trot was an interesting event, the Mambino king Nightingale, proving to be the winner after five heats had been trotted. Anderson's Nightingale, which appeared on the Indianapolis track, not showing any better than third, but Patterson's Walter E. also appeared in the race and took the first two heats, but did nothing more. The time for the five heats was as follows: 2:12, 2:12, 2:12, 2:12, 2:12. Friday was the day of days at the track, however, and the free-for-all pace developed some sensations that will not soon be forgotten. Seven heats were run, and their names are all by words of speed. Mascot, Hal Pointer, Flying Jib, Major Wonder, Guy, Manager and Blue Sign. They all stayed the mile, except the last five heats better than 2:18. In the second of these Mascot went the mile without a bobble, paced Flying Jib off his feet just before the wire was reached, and finished in 2:04, the fastest mile of the season. It was the greatest race of the year, and the summary is given below:

Mascot	6	1	2	1
Hal Pointer	7	6	2	1
Flying Jib	1	2	6	5
Major Wonder	2	3	5	4
Guy	4	4	4	3
Manager	3	3	3	3
Blue Sign	5	3	3	3

Time: 2:07, 2:04, 2:06, 2:07, 2:07.

Some of the most prominent horsemen in the country have been at the Indiana tracks, and they, with one accord, have said that nowhere could tracks be found to excel them. Bob Patterson, who drove Walter E. over the Indianapolis track, was compelled to confess that it was equally as good, if not better, than the rectangular one at Terre Haute, and to say that he had never driven over a faster one in his life. He said that there was a little wave in the back stretch, and with that out it would be phenomenal. Horses that have been going in the circuit will now scatter out over the country, and many of them will resemble here in the fall, when the great meetings are given. It will be left to Indianapolis, this year, to give the crack-jack of them all the week of the G. A. R. encampment. Purse and money have been offered equal to anything which has been given in the Grand Circuit, and it is bound to bring the speed.

The spring meetings of the Indiana circuit have closed, and they have been successful ones in every respect, unless it be a pecuniary one. None of the associations have lost money, unless it be the one at Anderson, where a week of racing was finished on Friday, yet none of them have made their everlasting fortunes. However, that is not a discouraging omen. Spring meetings, as a rule, are not as well attended as are the fall ones, and the promoters of them do not expect them to be. Whatever else may be said of the Indiana circuit, nothing can be said against the quality of the sport offered. Not only have some of the best horses in the country appeared, but they have gone the miles in minutes and seconds that heralded to the world that we have the fastest tracks in it right here in the Hoosier State. It is true that horses that went here have made faster time since they left here, but it must be taken into consideration that the season is yet young, and that a horse is going to go faster every day of it when he is properly cared for. Horses which last year had records close up to the 2:20 mark have been going on Indiana soil as low as 2:11, and Steel Prince and Kissel's Dallas have each made a mark of 2:04. Perhaps the owner or driver of either did not want that mark to be placed against his animal, but each found himself in a place where he had to do it, or have the charge of pulling brought against him. Fields of horses which last year the owners of good ones were not at all alarmed about have made these same good ones go their prettiest, and have been the cause of the low marks which have been hung out at the ends of the various heats.

Horse Notes.
Kissel's Dallas and Albert E. went to the fall in 1:58 at Columbus last week.
Martha Wilkes is carrying one hundred pounds more flesh than she did last season.
Cris Davis has in his string four trotters that have gone miles this season in 2:14 or better.

The gray gelding Little Span, by Keller Thomas, 2:13, is one of the fastest colts in the State.
Kalamazoo, Mich., is to have a new mile track to be built in the most approved modern style.

The dash and two-in-three races are not proving satisfactory. In fact, they are very tame affairs.
Sunol, 2:08, record made before the advent of the bike, is now in preparation again for a fast mark attached to the modern rig.

It is said that in California a yearling by Electricity has already trotted a mile in 2:30. This is quite a notable performance for so early in the year.

Princeton is setting too much work so early in the campaign. Two races a week

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so early in the campaign will retire any horse.—Western Horseman.

Nelson, 2:10, driven by H. C. Nelson, trotted a mile in 2:13 July 14, at Portland, Me. The half was reached in 1:05¾, and the last quarter in 3¾ seconds.

Tennessee think they have the second Hal Pointer in the pacer Complex, by Duplex. Although eligible to the 2:30 class this spring he has shown miles in 2:10.

Cyclone, 2:39, is now seventeen years old, and has not had a harness on for three seasons. He recently trotted a quarter over the half-mile track at Paris, Ky., in 43¾ seconds.

The Columbus, Ind., association came out ahead financially, and great was the sport. Their track is one of the best in the world, the city a beautiful and progressive one and they will have good meetings always.

A monstrosity in the shape of a colt with a head like a calf and having but one eye and no mouth, was foaled on the Fair ranch in Sonoma county, California. It lived for two hours after its birth. The dam was a large draft mare.

Thomas Taggart, of this city, has bought of Bert Shank his fast inbred Wilkes stallion. He is a two-year-old and one of the most promising ones in the country. He is a good individual, of good size and color, and will make a 2:30 mark when put in a race.

Some thought that even the only Martha Wilkes would take second place in a race where Lord Clinton appeared, but the black gelding appeared as the fourth one in the free-for-all at Pittsburg. The Indiana Hiaw Patch mare, Magnolia, won one heat from Martha.

Blairwood, 2:15, we fear has had too much work since he has been in the race in two races last week at Columbus, and was quite lame. He is a very speedy horse. His second dam is by Bald Hornet, so the unusual amount of white appearing on him is easily accounted for.—Western Horseman.

Guy, 2:00, is showing worlds of speed this season. At Monmouth, Ill., he paced a second heat in 2:10, and it was left to him to step along some the third heat. He went to the quarter in 3¾, to the half in 1:05¾, and to the three-quarters in 1:54, where he threw a shoe, and finished the last quarter in forty seconds. It is a sure thing he can beat his present record.

One of the most remarkable paces on the track at the present time is the bay gelding Gossip, Jr. He is now sixteen years old, yet he holds his own in the New England Circuit. He made his record of 2:12 at Buffalo in 1888, yet he went twice recently over Charter Oak Park, Hartford, in 2:16 and 2:14, putting in the last half of the last mile in 1:05. He is by Gossip, dam by "Hiram Patchen" son of George H. Patchen, while his grandam was by Voorhees's Abdallah.

We learn that William Knickerbocker, of Albion, Mich., is the owner of a wonderful three-year-old stallion sired by Omedo Wilkes, 2:38, dam by Tremont, 2:28; second dam by Hamlet, 2:30. This colt was never handled for speed until last spring, and has never been on a mile track, but has been showing half miles in 1:12, quarters in thirty-two seconds, and last week, at Springfield, Mich., he was driven a quarter in thirty seconds. This is approaching the two-minute horse. He is a product of the Gibson stock farm, at Jackson, Mich. His sire and the sire of his dam are now both on this farm, and Hamlet was owned by Dr. W. A. Gibson when his second dam was bred.—Western Horseman.

Concerning Postage Stamps.

Detroit Free Press.

What is apparently more useless than canceled postage stamps, and yet there is a store on Michigan avenue where they seem to be in demand. One of the windows is entirely heaped up with present day United States stamps, mostly of the 2-cent denomination. There must be thousands of them there, and the observer can only wonder what in the world can be their value. They cannot possess any particular interest to the stamp collector, for they are neither rare nor valuable. The ordinary person the canceled two-cent postage stamp seems a worthless thing indeed. Prices paid for such stamps, however, are 10 cents per thousand, \$1 per 10,000, and \$2 per 100,000. Many an industrious lad will probably be moved by this offer (as the appearance of the window, indeed, testifies), and yet the immense labor of collecting 100,000 stamps can be appreciated. Yet during the centennial stamps were bought in the same manner, and those who purchased them are to-day reaping a handsome profit, for the Centennial postage stamp has increased wonderfully in value in a canceled condition during the last few years. As time goes on stamps increase greatly in value, especially stamps issued for one year only on a special occasion, like the Centennial or the fair. To show how valuable a stamp may become, the writer of this may mention the fact that about eight years ago he purchased a first-class English envelope stamp in London for \$1.50, and it was at that time worth a great deal more in this country. Now it has probably increased still more.

A Personal View of the Silver Question.

Chicago Record.

His Daughter.—Say, pa, dear, silver has depreciated in value of late, hasn't it?
He (absently)—Yes.
His Daughter (winningly)—Then you won't say now that you can't afford to buy me that lovely silver hat pin I've been dying for down at Bijou's, will you?

The Opinion of an Expert.

Winchester Journal.

A young man over in Jay county who was in a marrying mood last week had two girls on the string. One was a good looking, the other was homely, but owned a cow. He consulted a friend who had been married three times. "Take the girl that owns the cow," was the advice, "there isn't a cow's difference in any two women in Jay county."

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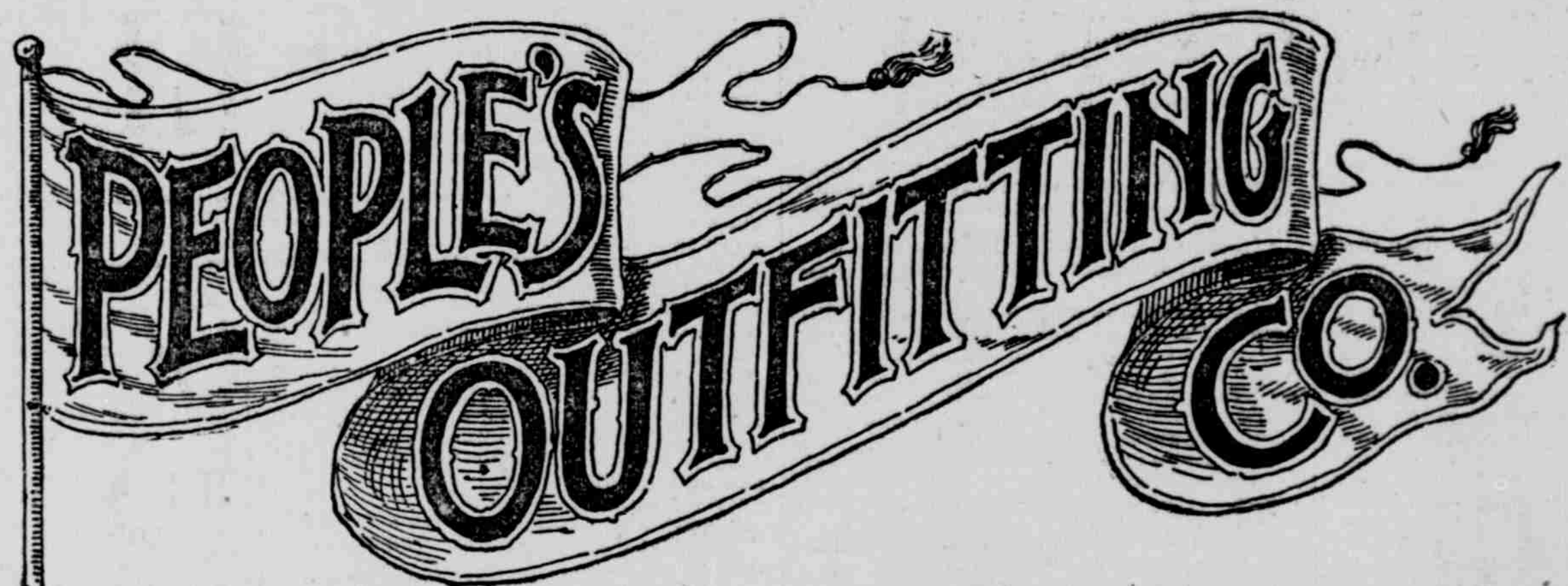
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